

Measure Up

Winter 2010

Assessment news for twelfth-grade teachers



Did you know?

- In 2011, approximately 22,000 twelfth-graders in 800 schools will participate in NAEP.
- The twelfth-grade student participation rate in NAEP has increased from 66 percent in 2005 to about 80 percent in recent years.
- A brand new video that shares what real students have to say about NAEP is now available online. See page 2 for more details!

Motivating Students to Participate and Do Their Best on NAEP

Students selected for NAEP represent hundreds of other students like themselves, across the nation. To ensure representative results, it is important that students at your school fully participate in the testing process. Your encouragement will convey the importance of the assessment, helping NAEP to accurately measure what twelfth-graders know and can do.

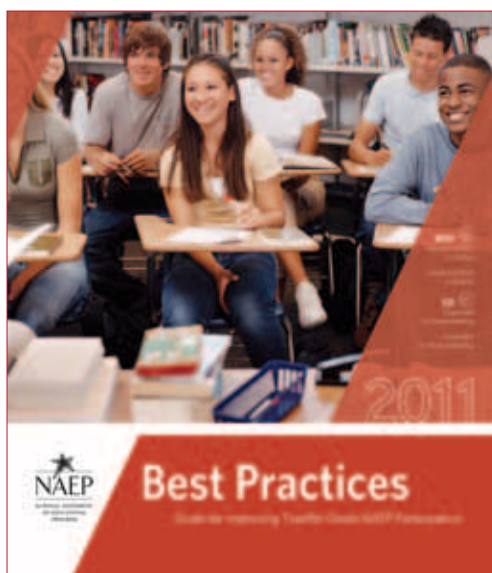
High school principals and teachers in past assessments have found the following strategies effective in engaging students to take the assessment. An analysis of student participation data also reveals that

schools that use multiple strategies have higher participation rates than schools that do not. Focus groups of seniors confirm the importance of the strategies below.

- Share information about NAEP with your twelfth-graders.
- Consider ways to thank students for their participation.
- Talk to participating students at the beginning of the assessment session.

Share information about NAEP with your twelfth-graders.

- Show the 5-minute NAEP video, *Introducing NAEP to Students*, to your selected twelfth-grade students. The video is available online at the following url: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/naepstudent.asp>.



(Continued on next page)



Ask your NAEP School Coordinator to see the Best Practices Guide to learn how to encourage participation of your twelfth-grade students.

Motivating Students to Participate and Do Their Best on NAEP

(Continued from previous page)

- Let students know that the assessment only takes about 120 minutes and that results are anonymous.
- Explain that the results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card and they help the President, Congress, and educators make decisions about how to improve our educational system. By participating, students have the ability to influence those decisions and contribute to the quality of education for future students.
- Include an article in the school newspaper or on the school website that describes NAEP and the importance of twelfth-grade participation. Sample article text is included in the Best Practices Guide provided to your NAEP school coordinator.
- Inform students that, in addition to responding to the content questions, they will also have the opportunity to respond to questions about their educational experiences that may be related to performance, such as homework and reading habits.

Consider ways to thank students for their participation.

- Team up with your school principal to recognize students who participated in NAEP. Examples include:
 - providing NAEP honor tags to wear during graduation;
 - providing free tickets to school events; or
 - granting community service credits to participating students to meet graduation or service organization requirements.

Talk to participating students at the beginning of the assessment session.

- Personally introduce the NAEP staff, since students demonstrate greater focus when they are familiar with the test administrators.
- Encourage students to do their best; and remind students that, by participating, they represent hundreds of other twelfth-graders across the nation.

NAEP 2011: Writing

From January through March 2011, NAEP will administer the 2011 writing computer-based assessment. Students will compose and submit their answers to the prompts electronically.

Before the assessment begins, students will be shown a tutorial which will help them become familiar with the way material is presented on the computer screen and how to use the program. Students will compose their responses in a word processing program similar to the programs they frequently use. They will be able to use common tools for editing, formatting, and text analysis; they will not have access to irrelevant or distracting tools such as clip art, font type and color, or the Internet. Students may ask questions anytime before and during the assessment.

It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete the

assessment, 60 minutes of which is allotted to writing two responses. Students will also respond to questions designed to gather information that provides context for understanding the assessment results, such as how many pages the student has to read each day for school and homework, and whether there is a computer in their home that they can use. Additionally, there are specific questions about computer use, such as writing for school assignments, writing e-mails, and using the Internet.

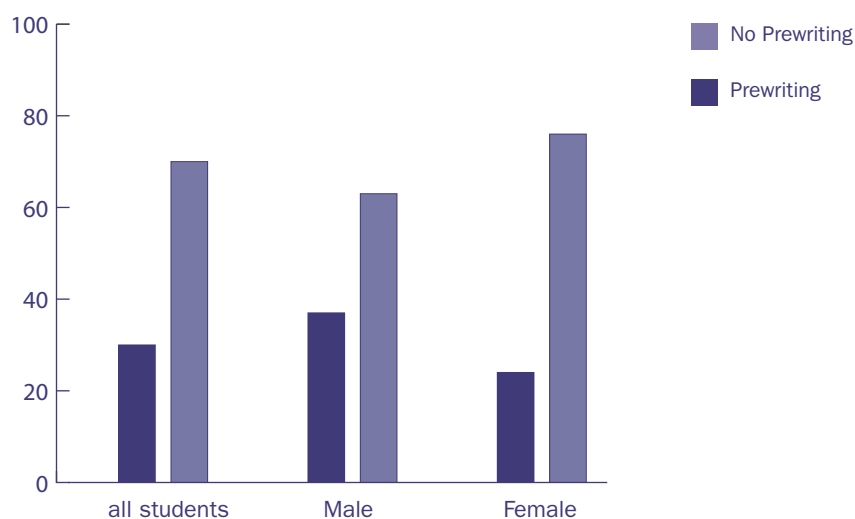
As part of the previous writing assessment in 2007, students were given a brochure, “Ideas for Planning and Reviewing Your Writing,” and the opportunity to use space in the test booklet for prewriting activities. The figure below shows the percentages of twelfth-graders who used this prewriting activity during the assessment for all students and by gender.



To see previous writing assessments, please visit the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.

NAEP 2007 Writing Assessment:

Was there evidence of prewriting in the student's test booklet?



NOTE:

Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE:

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2007 Writing Assessment.

What is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

This publication was prepared for the National Assessment of Educational Progress by Westat under contract (ED-07-CO-0083) to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

If you want to...

Visit...

Learn more about NAEP results	The Nation's Report Card at http://nationsreportcard.gov
View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx
Download a Sample Questions booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp
Learn more about NAEP frameworks and how policy is drafted for each NAEP assessment	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp
Offer a comment or suggestion on NAEP	The National Center for Education Statistics mailbox at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp
Learn about the resources NAEP provides to students	The National Center for Education Statistics mailbox at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/students/links.asp